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SHREWD POSTAL CLERK MYSTIFIES DETECTIVES

Indianapolis Railway Mail Agent
Captured After Three Years
Unconfirmed Suspicion
of His Guilt.

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 26.—One of the most remarkable letter-stealing records made since the establishment of the railway mail service is credited to Frank M. Smallwood of this city, who for three years baffled detection and so won the confidence of the government officers that they actually apologized to him on one occasion for having suspected him, and afterward counseled with him as to the best means for catching the thief.

At times it seemed as if the thief was actuated only by an inordinate curiosity, for there were weeks at a time when letters addressed to women only and written by women only were tampered with or actually stolen. Then again packages containing jewelry, dry goods and other articles would be rifled or opened and inspected and then forwarded to their destination. At other times letters only would be opened or stolen.

So adroit was the thief that the government officers could not get him with decoys, for these always passed through the mails with their contents intact, and in the meantime letters were disappearing from the mails at the rate of ten or a dozen a day.

Smallwood lived with his wife and three children at 1717 Park avenue, and since 1890 had been running between this city and Pittsburg, Pa., on the Panhandle line. He worked in a car with a number of other clerks, but he was assigned to mail destined for Kansas, and it was from this mail that letters and packages began to disappear in December, 1898. Inspectors Holmes and Fletcher were assigned to run down the thief, and they have been working on the case ever since, it being only last week that Smallwood was caught, red-handed, and made a full confession.

Soon after the officers began an investigation they were convinced that there was no trouble west of this city, and that the letters were rifled between here and Pittsburg. In one month sixteen letters were lost, and all of these were addressed to persons in Topeka. Suspicion at once fell upon Smallwood, and he was transferred from Chief Clerk Blackburn's crew to that of Chief Clerk Miller, and a close watch was kept on the Kansas mail. Letters continued to disappear or reach their destination after being opened, but, as the same mail was handled at other points, there was still room for question as to Smallwood's guilt. About this time the suspect was injured and had to lay off for thirty days. The Kansas mail was carefully watched during this time, and on one occasion three letters were found to have been opened.

This threw the officers entirely off the scent and they reached the conclusion that some one else was robbing the mails and that the thief, whoever he was, was trying to throw suspicion on Smallwood. The finding of the opened letters in the Kansas mail when Smallwood was not on the run fully justified this theory, the officers thought, and they turned in other directions to find the thief. As soon as Smallwood recovered Inspector Holmes sent for him to come to his Cincinnati office, and there he told him candidly of the suspicions that had rested upon him and the satisfaction it gave the officers to find that he was not the thief.

Holmes and Smallwood then discussed plans for catching the robber, and Smallwood's manner

was so open and frank and he seemed to enter so heartily into the proposed plans, that, if any lingering suspicion had remained it would have been entirely dissipated by the interview. The mail clerk returned to his run and letters and packages addressed to Kansas people continued to disappear in increasing numbers. Having become convinced of Smallwood's innocence the officers went in other directions for the thief and, of course, the further they went the further they got away from the real culprit. In the meantime Smallwood made regular reports to the office of letters which were opened and was apparently doing all he could to assist Inspectors Holmes and Fletcher to catch the thief.

Hundreds of letters were now disappearing every month from the mails and the officers were getting desperate. They had now been after the thief since 1898, and did not seem to be any nearer a solution of the mystery than they were the day they began their investigation. Every trail was run down with dogged patience and they were finally compelled, though reluctantly, to believe that Smallwood was the thief and that he was laughing in his sleeve at the facility with which he was gulling them. It was then that they changed their plan of investigation.

Every day when Smallwood left his car the officers entered it secretly and went over all his mail. Then they actually traveled to Kansas in the car to see that no letters or packages were abstracted between this place and the points of delivery. This was kept up for some time, and always with the result that the missing letters had been taken out before reaching this city, and all the opened letters were in the sacks when they came in on the car.

Still actual evidence of Smallwood's guilt was wanting and the officers knew that it would not do to arrest him unless they were sure of finding some of the stolen mail on his person.

One morning last week Inspectors Holmes and Fletcher were at the Union station when the Panhandle train arrived, and when Smallwood got out of his car the officers were looking at him through the glass of a partly closed door. Smallwood came jauntily along swinging his lunch basket in his hand, and, as he passed through the door one of officers caught him by the arm and the other took possession of the basket. When the latter was opened it was found to contain a number of letters to Kansas people, several articles of feminine wearing apparel, such as women send through the mail, two or three stamped packages and a lady's purse with some money in it.

Smallwood saw that he was caught and confessed that it was he who had been so long robbing the mails. He says he does not know why he robbed the letters, but he could not help it. The officers believe his peculations will amount to \$2,500 or \$3,000 and confess that it has been the hardest case that they ever worked on.

Islands to be Sold.

MONTREAL, Que., Aug. 28.—The number of islands in the St. Lawrence Thousand Island group to be placed upon the market by the Dominion Department of the Interior numbers approximately 500. They are distributed over the river between Kingston and Brockville, and range from five acres to two-one hundredths of an acre in extent. As soon as the plans of the islands and the conditions of sale are printed offers to buy will be received by the department. In the event of two or more applications for the same island, the parties will be asked to tender, and the property will be sold to the highest bidder.

RICH MISER

PADDY KEARNS DIES IN SQUALLOR OF STARVATION

An Eccentric Character of Tarrytown, N. Y., Who Lived on Garbage, Refused Medical Aid and Thought it a Shame to Waste Money on a Coffin for His Wife.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., Aug. 27.—"Paddy" Kearns, miser, hermit, and an eccentric character, is dead. He died at his home in North Broadway, where he has lived for over fifty years, and the doctors say he starved himself to death. Kearns was taken ill last week. He lived alone and had no one to care for him, excepting his cousin, Mrs. Thomas Fallon, who called once in a while to see him. He refused to call in a doctor, saying he could not afford to spend the money, and he was stubborn until the end. The cause of death was "starvation."

Kearns was one of the characters of North Tarrytown. He came to this country from Ireland in 1849 and settled in Tarrytown. His home was a rickety one and a half story building, and was an eyesore to the neighbors. Many wealthy people lived near him, and he was often offered more than the value of his property, but he stoutly refused, saying, "not if you offered me \$10,000."

In the room down stairs he had a stove, table and two chairs. He bought bread once in a while, but generally he ate his neighbors' garbage. He always pleaded poverty and was a mean man. He owned one of the best wells in the village, yet he would allow no one to take a pail of water from it. If any one attempted it he would throw dirt in the pail.

Many stories are told of his miserable ways. Kearns always was a laboring man and worked hard as long as his age permitted. During the panic in the early '70s Kearns went to the Westchester Savings bank in Tarrytown, where he had his money, and drew out every cent of it. He went to the bank with his dinner pail. The money he placed in the lower part and his dinner in the upper section. He thought no one would suspect that he had money. After he drew the money out he was in terrible dread of everybody, and he walked the floor all night with the dinner pail in his hand. At sunrise next morning he started to walk to New York, and he deposited the money in the Bowery Savings bank.

Mrs. Fallon, his cousin, once rented part of his house, and as she stayed two days over he asked her for 60 cents for overtime, and she paid him. He even regretted paying his wife's funeral expenses when she died eight years ago, saying it was a shame to put so much money in a lovely coffin to put underground.

He had good health up to the last year. Not long ago he wanted to get married, but would only consent to taking a young girl. It was expected when he died that he had big sums of money concealed about the house. A search was made today and not a cent was found. He always carried a pocketbook and two silver watches, but these were missing. His bank books were found, showing he had \$7,000 deposited in New York and Tarrytown banks. Kearns' property was assessed for \$2,000 personal. This he swore off last year.

Sweden Running a Mine.

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 27.—The imperialistic spirit of the great nations is forcing Sweden to socialism. The Gelivare Mining company, which began work in the enormous iron fields in Lapland, is reported to be in financial straits. It is expected that the Swedish government will be

compelled to work the mines itself, and warned by the Transvaal's fate the government in order to keep out foreign capital is building railways and keeping the developments of the country within safe bounds.

To Make Lime Cheaper.

ROCKLAND, Me., Aug. 28.—Scientists have just completed here an investigation of a new process of burning lime which it is claimed will revolutionize the industry in that it will reduce the price of making lime from 50 to 75 per cent. For the last week Professor Carleton Ellis of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, William O. Webber, a Boston expert, and John C. Combs of Boston have been here conducting elaborate tests at the kilns of Bryant & Kent. At the conclusion of their work they expressed themselves as entirely satisfied with the results obtained. By the new method, which is known as the Eldred process, a cheap grade of coal is used where heretofore wood has been necessary to get the best lime.

ORIGIN AND STATUTES OF COLOMBIAN REVOLUTION

COLON, Aug. 27.—The United States gun-boat Machias has anchored in the harbor here. The German cruiser Tineta is expected shortly. The Chilean cruiser Ministro Centeno has been ordered to Guayaquil, and will probably proceed to Panama.

The government sent troops on Saturday to Boca del Toro, near which town the rebels are reported.

The censorship here prevents the transmission of political news or news unfavorable to the government.

The revolt of the liberal Colombian rebels, now two years old, lately assumed a more serious aspect by the liberal's concentration on the isthmus. It is believed they are contemplating aggressive action. Consequently, uneasiness prevails at Panama, the liberal objective, which was nearly captured a year ago. It is not believed the rebels will molest the railroad, or interrupt traffic. The recent rebel raids along the railroad amounted to bloodless raiding, and the robbery of Chinese storekeepers, the presence of a few government troops apparently stopped. There is a report that the government is bringing troops to protect the isthmus. This will be difficult, without exposing to rebel attacks the points whence they are taken. The area of the revolt is extensive.

The Colombian government is in straits financially. At present forty Colombian paper dollars are equivalent in value to one gold dollar. The government is printing paper money indiscriminately, lately established heavy export duties, payable in gold, and has sold monopolies and privileges of all kinds, all of which has greatly injured commerce.

The conditions in the interior are bad. The government is well supplied with ammunition and this week unsuccessfully tried to become possessed of consignments of the same to Ecuador and Nicaragua in transit over the Panama railroad.

Dashed to Death.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Aug. 27.—By the breaking of a cable in the Chenoa coal mine yesterday four miners were dashed to death, falling a distance of 247 feet. There were six men about to descend upon the cage, but just as it was about to be lowered one boy and a grown man became alarmed over the snapping of something and stepped off. Just then the cable parted, close to the cage and it dropped to the bottom. The four men were instantly killed, the neck of each being broken. Owing to the fact that there was nine feet of water at the bottom of the second vein it was a matter of difficulty to recover the bodies.

TURKEY'S DANGER

SULTAN'S BAD FAITH CAUSES FRENCH MINISTER TO WITHDRAW

Time For Promises Has Passed and Turkey Must Now Fulfill Her Undertakings—The Situation is Critical and the Integrity of the Ottoman Empire is Threatened.

PARIS, Aug. 28.—A semi-official note just issued says:

"On August 17 an arrangement concerning the various disputes between France and Turkey was effected with the Porte. The terms were drafted by the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Pasha, with the approval of the Sultan, who promised M. Constans, the French Ambassador to Constantinople, that the full text would be handed to him on August 18. M. Constans telegraphed on Aug. 19 that none of the Porte's promises had been fulfilled.

"On Aug. 21 M. Delcasse, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, telegraphed M. Constans that, in view of the complete disregard of its undertakings by Turkey, France was unable to continue the negotiations. M. Delcasse requested M. Constans to inform the Porte that he had received orders to leave Constantinople. "M. Constans communicated this to the Porte on Aug. 23, and announced that he would depart on Aug. 26. As none of the Porte's promises had been kept on that date, M. Constans left Constantinople."

It was announced from the best source that the departure of M. Constans from Constantinople, in the circumstances, is tantamount to a partial rupture of Franco-Turkish relations. Munir Bey, who is in Switzerland, will be informed, as set forth in the semi-official note, that the French government does not desire him to return to Paris. The current affairs of the two embassies can be carried on by the charges d'affaires, but all negotiations of a political nature will be entirely suspended until the Sultan yields to the French demands.

The French government holds that the Sultan has broken his word. He had promised full payment of the long-standing indemnities to the Frenchmen, amounting to 12,000,000 francs, but at the end of last week declined to pay the full amount, and offered a reduced sum, which was refused by M. Constans, who waited until yesterday, and then departed.

The Sultan made a final attempt to induce him to stay. M. Constans had left Therapia on board the Vautour, for Stamboul, where he was to take the Orient express. A court chamberlain arrived at Stamboul in post-haste from the Sultan, begging M. Constans to return to Therapia, and promising that everything would be satisfactorily settled. M. Constans declined to return, declaring the time for promises was past, and that it was for the Sultan to fulfill his undertakings.

The French government will take no further steps in the matter, but will wait for the Sultan to move. It is thought the Sultan will not allow the present situation to last very long.

May Mean End of Turkish Empire.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 28.—It is feared in official circles here that the withdrawal of the French Ambassador from Constantinople marks the dissolution of the concert of European powers, under which the integrity of Turkey was guaranteed. By the treaty of Berlin all the great powers of Europe subscribed to an agreement to refrain from any act that would tend to destruction of the Ottoman empire.

This action was taken to forestall what were conceived to be the designs of Russia to

seize on Turkish territory, and Russia herself was led to subscribe to the agreement by force of circumstances.

Although several times severely strained, notably by such events as the last war between Turkey and Greece, this pact has so far endured without amendment; but it is apprehended now that, if the action of France is carried out to the extreme indicated in the dispatches, each of the other signatory powers will feel obliged in self-protection to disregard the agreement and press upon Turkey the vast financial and other claims that have accumulated in the past quarter of a century, with a result of disrupting the present Turkish government.

The Inevitable End.

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 27.—The Northeastern Indemnity, a fraternal benefit insurance organization, with headquarters at Lowell, has applied to the insurance department for the appointment of a receiver to take charge of its affairs. It could no longer meet its death losses.

ANOTHER HEATH APPOINTEE DISGRACES GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Probably the most important arrests ever made in connection with the smuggling of Chinese across the Mexican border into the United States were made in Arizona, when Wm. M. Hoey, collector of customs at Nogales; B. F. Jossey, an immigrant inspector; Frank How, a Chinaman living at Clifton, Mex., just across the border from Nogales, were taken into custody by special agents of the treasury and secret service operatives. Other arrests are expected to follow within a day or two.

It is stated that, with two or three exceptions, the whole customs and immigration administrations at Nogales are involved.

The number of Chinamen who have bought their way into the United States through the connivance of the Nogales officials is not known, but is believed to be large.

Hoey was appointed from Muncie on the recommendation of Congressman Cromer and Perry Heath. Previous to his appointment he was foreman in the Midland steel plant at Muncie, and his selection for the Arizona collectorship was made as a recognition of labor, and especially of the organization to which Hoey belonged. His appointment was indorsed at the time by leading citizens of Muncie.

One of Hoey's Indianapolis friends, who helped him arrange for his bond when he was appointed to the Arizona office, says Hoey's friends urged him to remove all the men on the old collector's force and begin his term with a new force. Hoey, it is said, had the impression that his Indianapolis republican friends were trying to dictate to him and he declined to follow their suggestions.

Hoey's Hearing Thursday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 28.—Developments in the case of Wm. M. Hoey and the other revenue officers stationed in Arizona, charged with smuggling Chinamen into the United States, have taken on a new phase. It is directly charged by the high officials of the treasury department, who have charge of the case, that among those smuggled into this country were a number of Chinese girls, who were consigned to dens of vice in San Francisco to be kept as slaves. The agents of these places are constantly at work trying to smuggle girls across the Mexican and Canadian borders. The government is always on the watch for them. It is claimed here that direct connection has been discovered between these agents and the Arizona corrupt officials. Hoey has been arrested and his hearing is set for Thursday.

SAVAGE CRIME

GUTS WIFE'S THROAT AND HIS OWN IN PRESENCE OF CHILD

Nicholas Rieblinger, Chicago Laborer, Severs His Jugular Vein With a Razor Fresh From His Wife's Neck, a Little Granddaughter Screaming in Terror at the Scene.

CHICAGO, Aug. 27.—After cutting his wife's throat from ear to ear with a razor, Nicholas Rieblinger stood in front of a mirror and drew the blade across his jugular vein, falling by the side of his victim.

The deed was committed yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at the home of the woman's son, John Maier, No. 3036 Lowe avenue. Mrs. Rieblinger died on the way to a hospital, and her husband expired shortly after arriving there. The murder and suicide were the result of an unsuccessful attempt by Rieblinger to induce his wife to return to him.

The little granddaughter of the murdered woman, Josephine Maier, aged 6 years, stood in the doorway and screamed in terror at the scene enacted before her. Rieblinger had grabbed his wife by the throat and pinned her against the wall, while he drew a rusty table knife from his pocket and jabbed at her neck. The blade failed to pierce the skin, and, drawing a razor, he shook open the blade and threw the woman to the floor. Planting his knee upon her breast, he struck right and left with the blade across her throat, until her face and his hands were covered with the blood that spurted over them.

The screams of the little girl brought her mother from a back room of the house. Overcome with horror at the sight that met her gaze, she tried to pull Rieblinger from the body of his victim, and then ran screaming from the house, leaving her daughter standing in the doorway. The little girl saw Rieblinger rise from the body of his wife, who then staggered to her feet and tried to open a door nearby, while blood spurted from her neck. She fell heavily to the floor and lay motionless.

Rieblinger then walked to a mirror, placed the razor carefully against his throat, and, with several short, quick jerks, drove it home. Then he staggered across the room, leaving a crimson trail behind him, and fell by the side of his wife, their blood mingling and forming a pool on the floor. Both were gasping in the throes of death when policemen from the Twenty-Second street station arrived. The bodies were taken to Perrigo's morgue, No. 2970 State street.

Rieblinger was 46 and his wife 52 years old. They were married twenty-one years ago and are survived by five children. During the last five years the husband had worked but little and the wife had been obliged to take in washing to support herself. They resided on Parnell avenue, near Thirty-First street, until about six weeks ago, when Mrs. Rieblinger left her husband because of his continued idleness and went to live with the family of her son at his home on Lowe avenue. Thereafter her husband called frequently to see her, and each time begged her to return to him, but she steadfastly refused.

Yesterday afternoon he called again, and, entering the house by the kitchen door, found his wife preparing supper. He at once began to plead for her return, and, getting frightened, she left him and went into the parlor of the house. Rieblinger followed and she tried to escape by a door leading to the street, but it was locked, and her husband, a man of powerful build, overpowered her and forced her against the wall. The murder and the suicide followed.